

Interview Summary

Application No.

10/629,726

Applicant(s)

BRADFORD, JUDSON A.

Examiner

Eugene Lhymn

Art Unit

3727

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Eugene Lhymn.

(3) John Davis.

(2) Nathan Newhouse.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 31 January 2006.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference

c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 10, 12, 26, 36, 37


NATHAN J. NEWHOUSE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Identification of prior art discussed: cited in the case

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: _____.

The proposed amended claims appear to define enough structure to obviate previous 122 rejections. (A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

With respect to proposed claim 7, the claim obviates the original 112 rejection.
THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

With respect to claim 36, the claim was rewritten to read over the prior art of record, specifically, the added limitation "...adapted to planarly extend said partition more than the thickness of the fastener."*

Independent claims 1, 10, 12, 21, 28, and 33 were discussed. Possible modifications to said claims were also discussed. Clarity ~~to~~ with respect to claims 10, 12, 28, 33 as to whether only the partition assembly or the partition assembly AND the container should be claimed was discussed.

** claims 25, 31 - similar to claim 36*

If claim 33 is amended to include the partition assembly AND the container, the limitation of "or component of a two part..." will read over the prior art of record by amending the claim as such - "to an inner surface of part of..."

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS
DO NOT ENTER

1. (Currently Amended) A combination comprising:
a partition assembly including partitions arranged in a matrix,
a container having intersecting slotted walls extending upwardly from a bottom, said
bottom and said walls of said container defining an interior of said container;
said partitions being of a length such that said partition assembly may fit in said interior
of said container without bending said partitions;
wherein said partition assembly is held in said interior of said container by at least one
hook and loop fastener.
2. (Original) The combination of claim 1 wherein said hook and loop fastener comprises a
first component secured to an inner surface of one of said container walls and a second
component secured to one of said partitions.
3. (Original) The combination of claim 2 wherein one of said components has hooks
engaged with loops on the other of said components.
4. (Original) The combination of claim 2 wherein said second component is adhesively
secured to said one of said partitions.

5. (Original) The combination of claim 2 wherein said second component of said hook and loop fastener is a piece of fabric adhesively secured to opposite side surfaces of said one of said partitions.
6. (Original) The combination of claim 2 wherein said second component of said hook and loop fastener functions as a flexible extension of said one of said partitions.
7. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 2 wherein said second component of said hook and loop fastener has an exterior surface which has a plurality of loops ~~on an exterior surface thereof~~.
8. (Original) The combination of claim 2 wherein said second component of said hook and loop fastener is a flexible tab.
9. (Original) The combination of claim 1 wherein said partitions are plastic.
10. (Currently Amended) A partition assembly for insertion into a container for dividing the space inside the container, said container having a plurality of walls, one component of a two part hook and loop fastener having a removable backing covering an adhesive surface, said adhesive surface being secured to an inner surface of one of said walls of said container, said partition assembly comprising:
a plurality of first slotted partitions;

a plurality of second slotted partitions;
said first and second slotted partitions being arranged in a matrix;
one of said slotted partitions having a flexible tab at the end thereof, said flexible tab comprising a second component of said two part hook and loop fastener adapted for engagement with said first component of said two part hook and loop fastener without bending any of said partitions.

11. (Original) The partition assembly of claim 10 wherein each of said partitions is plastic.

12. (Currently Amended) A partition assembly for insertion into a container, said container having walls extending upwardly from a bottom, said bottom and walls defining an interior of said container, the linear distance between inner surfaces of two opposed walls of said container defining a width of an interior of said container and the distance between inner surfaces of the other two opposed walls of said container defining a length of said interior of said container, one component of a two part hook and loop fastener having a removable backing covering an adhesive surface, said adhesive surface being secured to an inner surface of one of said walls of said container, said partition assembly comprising:

a plurality of first slotted partitions, each first slotted partition having a series of slots extending inwardly from an edge thereof;

a plurality of second slotted partitions, each second slotted partition having a series of slots extending inwardly from an edge thereof;

said first and second slotted partitions being arranged in a matrix, one of said slots of a first slotted partition being engaged with one of said slots of a second slotted partition at an intersection;

each of said first slotted partitions being shorter than said width of said interior of said container and each of said second slotted partition being shorter than said length of said container;

one of said slotted partitions having a flexible tab at the end thereof, said flexible tab comprising a second component of said two part hook and loop fastener for engagement with said first component of said two part hook and loop fastener.

13. (Original) The partition assembly of claim 12 wherein each of said partitions is plastic.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A combination comprising:

a partition assembly including slotted partitions arranged in a matrix,

a container having walls extending upwardly from a bottom, said bottom and said walls of said container defining an interior of said container;

said partitions being of a length such that said partition assembly may fit in said interior of said container without bending said partitions;

wherein said partition assembly is held in said interior of said container by at least one hook and loop fastener comprising a first component secured to an inner surface of one of said container walls and a second flexible component secured to one of said partitions, said second flexible component being adapted to bend both clockwise and counterclockwise relative to one of said partitions.

22. (New) The combination of claim 21 wherein said partitions are plastic.

23. (New) The combination of claim 21 wherein one of said components has hooks engaged with loops on the other of said components.

24. (New) The combination of claim 21 wherein said second component is adhesively secured to said one of said partitions.

25. (New) The combination of claim 21 wherein said second component of said hook and loop fastener is a piece of fabric adhesively secured to opposite side surfaces of said one of said partitions.

26. (New) The combination of claim 21 wherein said second component of said hook and loop fastener functions as a planar extension of said one of said partitions. - more than the thickness of the fastener

27. (New) The combination of claim 21 wherein said second component of said hook and loop fastener has an exterior surface which has a plurality of loops.

28. (New) A partition assembly for insertion into a container for dividing the space inside the container, said container having a plurality of walls, one component of a two part hook and loop fastener being secured to an inner surface of one of said walls of said container, said partition assembly comprising:

a plurality of first slotted partitions;

a plurality of second slotted partitions;

said first and second slotted partitions being arranged in a matrix;

one of said slotted partitions having a flexible tab sandwiched around the end thereof, said flexible tab comprising a second component of said two part hook and loop fastener adapted for engagement with said first component of said two part hook and loop fastener without bending any of said partitions.

29. (New) The partition assembly of claim 28 wherein each of said partitions is plastic.

30. (New) The partition assembly of claim 28 wherein each of said second component of said two part hook and loop fastener has a removable backing covering an adhesive surface, said adhesive surface adapted to attach to said ends of said slotted partitions.

31. (New) The partition assembly of claim 28 wherein each of said second component of said two part hook and loop fastener is adapted to planarly extend said partition.

32. (New) The partition assembly of claim 28 wherein said one component of a two part hook and loop fastener has a removable backing covering an adhesive surface, said adhesive surface being secured to an inner surface of one of said walls of said container.

33. (New) A partition assembly for insertion into a container, said container having walls extending upwardly from a bottom, said bottom and walls defining an interior of said container, the linear distance between inner surfaces of two opposed walls of said container defining a width of an interior of said container and the distance between inner surfaces of the other two

opposed walls of said container defining a length of said interior of said container, one component of a two part hook and loop fastener being secured to an inner surface of one of said walls of said container, said partition assembly comprising:

a plurality of first slotted partitions, each first slotted partition having a series of slots extending inwardly from an edge thereof;

a plurality of second slotted partitions, each second slotted partition having a series of slots extending inwardly from an edge thereof;

said first and second slotted partitions being arranged in a matrix, one of said slots of a first slotted partition being engaged with one of said slots of a second slotted partition at an intersection;

each of said first slotted partitions being shorter than said width of said interior of said container and each of said second slotted partition being shorter than said length of said container;

one of said slotted partitions having a flexible tab sandwiched around the end thereof, said flexible tab comprising a second component of said two part hook and loop fastener for engagement with said first component of said two part hook and loop fastener.

34. (New) The partition assembly of claim 33 wherein each of said partitions is plastic.

35. (New) The partition assembly of claim 33 wherein each of said second component of said two part hook and loop fastener has a removable backing covering an adhesive surface, said adhesive surface adapted to attach to said ends of said slotted partitions.

36. (New) The partition assembly of claim 33 wherein each of said second component of said two part hook and loop fastener is adapted to planarly extend said partition. - more than ^{thickness} ~~width~~ of the fastener

37. (New) The partition assembly of claim 33 wherein said one component of a two part hook and loop fastener has a removable backing covering an adhesive surface, said adhesive surface being secured to an inner surface of one of said walls of said container.